

## ABSTRACT

A container conveying system for conveying containers 8 containing substrates such as wafers within a clean room comprises a conveyance apparatus 7 disposed substantially in parallel with plural treatment apparatuses 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, ... to convey the containers 8 and a transfer apparatus 9 capable of moving freely in an upper ceiling space within the clean room, characterized in that the plural treatment apparatuses 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, ... are arranged on at least one side of a passage and respectively provided with interface devices 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, ... on the side facing the passage; the interface devices 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, ... are capable of temporarily receiving the containers 8 and moving the substrates from the interiors of the containers to the interiors of the treatment apparatuses 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, ... and vice versa in a hermetically sealed atmosphere; and the transfer apparatus 9 delivers and receives the containers 8 between the conveyance apparatus 7 and the treatment apparatuses 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, ... or between the treatment apparatuses 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, .... According to this container conveying system, the container conveying capacity, the treatment capacity, the footprint, the container stock function and the sorting function are further improved.